Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 01889 100732Z

14-11
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 NIC-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 BIB-01 ORM-01 SR-02

FDRE-00 /077 W
---------- 068822
P P 090904Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9506
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 1889

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPARTMENT PASS SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH IF DESIRED

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR SREF AS VS VN MY
SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN RELIEF ACTIVITIES FOR SOUTH VIETNAM

REF: A. CANBERRA 2084
B. KL 1782
C. KL 1713

1. SUMMARY: AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION OFFICER CONFIRMS THAT GOM HAS BLOCKED USE OF BUTTERWORTH AIR FORCE BASE FOR GOA RELIEF EFFORTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. ALTHOUGH IT INITIALLY ALLOWED RAAF AIRCRAFT TO USE BUTTERWORTH AS STAGING AREA AND REFUELING POINT FOR VIETNAM OPERATIONS, GOM REFUSED CLEARANCE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 01889 100732Z

FOR RAAF C-130 APRIL 7 AND HAS CONTINUED TO TAKE NEGATIVE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

LINE BECAUSE, AS GOM FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS EXPLAINED PRIVATELY, RELIEF OPERATIONS IN MALAYSIAN TERRITORY MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS "OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE" BY NORTH VIETNAM. HOWEVER, AUSTRALIAN HICOM BELIEVES GOM ATTITUDE MAY SOFTEN IF CANBERRA CAN PROVIDE ASSURANCES THAT OPERATIONS THROUGH BUTTERWORTH ARE CONNECTED WITH UN OR RED CROSS PROGRAMS. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF MET WITH AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION OFFICER (BEHM) APRIL 9 TO DISCUSS AUSTRALIAN RELIEF EFFORTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM IN LIGHT OF REF A REPORT. BEHM SAID THAT UNTIL APRIL 7, GOM ALLOWED RAAF TO USE BUTTERWORTH AFB, ON MAINLAND OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA ACROSS FROM PENANG ISLAND, FOR RELIEF OPERATIONS AND REFUELING. UP TO THAT TIME, GOM ACCEPTED GOA ARGUMENT THAT RELIEF ACTIVITIES WERE PURELY HUMANITARIAN, NOT POLITICALLY MOTIVATED BECAUSE OF SYMPATHIES WITH SAIGON GOVT. ON APRIL 7, GOM REFUSED PERMISSION FOR FURTHER C-130 FLIGHT ON GROUNDS, EXPLAINED PRIVATELY BY MFA UNDERSECRETARY KHOR ENG HEE, THAT GOA ACTIVITIES MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY "DOMESTIC CRITICS" WHO FAVOR STRICT NEUTRALITY FOR GOM IN INDOCHINA CRISIS AND BY NORTH VIETNAM-ESE WHO OBJECT TO HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE CHANNELLED THROUGH SAIGON. AS HICOM REPORTED TO CANBERRA (BEHM GAVE EMBOFF COPY OF DESPATCH), KHOR SOFTENED SOMEWHAT WHEN TOLD THAT RAAF AIRCRAFT WOULD LIKELY CARRY SUPPLIES FOR UN AND RED CROSS PROGRAMS, BUT KHOR DECLINED TO COMMENT WHETHER GOM WOULD ALLOW BUTTERWORTH TO BE USED FOR RELIEF OPERATIONS UNDER UN UMBRELLA. NOT INCLUDED IN REPORT TO CANBERRA, ACCORDING TO BEHM, WAS KHOR'S SIDE COMMENT THAT GOA MIGHT WELL BE ADVISED TO "COOPERATE" WITH HANOI IN RELIEF ACTIVITIES.

3. REGARDING "SABOTAGE" OF RAAF C-130 AT BUTTERWORTH ON APRIL 6 (PARA 4 REF A), BEHM SAID IT HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT VANDALISM (LETTING AIR OUT OF ONE TIRE AND DRAINING 60 GALLONS OF AVGAS OUT OF TANK) WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. RAAF AND MALAYSIAN MILITARY POLICE ARE INVESTI-GATING INCIDENT WHICH HICOM IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE WAS PURELY VANDALISM. BEHM REASONED THAT "SABOTEURS" COULD EASILY HAVE DONE GREATER DAMAGE TO AIRCRAFT IF OBJECTIVE WAS TO HAMPER AUSTRALIAN RELIEF OPERATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, RAAF HAS INCREASED AIRFIELD SECURITY AND MALAYSIAN MILITARY, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUALA 01889 100732Z

IN RESPONSE TO HOMEMADE ROCKET ATTACKS AGAINST SEVERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS APRIL 1 BY MALAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY FACTION (KL 1801 NOTAL), HAS ALSO BEEFED UP BASE SECURITY. BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH MALAYSIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN KL AND PENANG, HICOM RATES LIKELIHOOD OF FUTURE SABOTAGE AND COMMUNIST TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST AIRBASE AS SLIM.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

4. POLITICAL ASPECTS OF GOA RELIEF OPERATIONS, BEHM
NOTED, WILL PROBABLY NOT BE RESOLVED UNTIL CANBERRA DECIDES
(A) WHETHER TO WORK THROUGH HANOI OR TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS
TO SAIGON FROM ANOTHER BASE; (B) WHETHER IT IS
POSSIBLE TO COMBINE ITS UNILATERAL RELIEF PROGRAM WITH UN
EFFORTS (WHICH WOULD ALSO MEAN WORKING THROUGH HANOI);
AND (C) WHETHER BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GOM WOULD BE
JEOPARDIZED BY SEEKING TO RESUME OPERATIONS OF ANY TYPE
THROUGH BUTTERWORTH. IN APRIL 8 DESPATCH TO CANBERRA,
HICOM ASSESSED GOM'S POSITION AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE:
EXPLANATION IS NOT TO BE FOUND IN ANY ANTI-AUSTRALIAN FEEL-
ING BUT IN THEIR ANXIETY TO DISPELL (SIC) SUSPICIONS
CREATED BY SIHANOUK ACCUSATION THAT THEY HAD RECENTLY
PLAYED A ROLE IN PHNOM PENH IN MANEUVERS TO HELP THE LON NOL
REGIME (KL 1810 NOTAL) AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY BY
THEIR PRESENT SENSE OF URGENCY TO OPEN AN EMBASSY IN
HANOI (REF B). EVENTS IN INDO-CHINA HAVE CAUGHT THEM
WITHOUT ESTABLISHED LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE
COMMUNIST SIDE, AND THEY ARE NOW RUSHING TO CATCH UP.
THEY HAVE ALSO TO DEMONSTRATE TO THEM THE PURITY OF THEIR
NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS. END QUOTE.

5. COMMENT: PENDING FURTHER EVOLUTION OF GOA'S POLICY
ON SOUTH VIETNAM RELIEF, GOM'S POSITION AGAINST USE OF
BUTTERWORTH IS NOT LIKELY TO CHANGE. WE WOULD
CONCUR IN HICOM'S ASSESSMENT ABOVE, AS WELL AS IN HICOM'S
OBSERVATION THAT GOM DOES NOT WISH AT THIS TIME TO DRAW
ATTENTION TO ITS FOREIGN BASE PRESENCE AND FPDA
COMMITMENTS WHICH DEROGATE FROM ITS NEUTRALIST STANCE.
UNDERHILL

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH.
CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, REFUELING, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, SECURITY, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUALA01889
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750124-1130
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750468/aaaackdk.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CANBERRA 2084
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN RELIEF ACTIVITIES FOR SOUTH VIETNAM
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, AS, VS, VN, MY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006